

Fox Facts

- There are six species of foxes in North America: Red, Gray, Kit, Arctic, Swift and Channel Island foxes
- Foxes have between 2 and 12 babies, or “kits,” per litter. The number they have is determined by the amount of food available to them before they breed, with more food meaning more kits
- Foxes’ average lifespan in the wild is seven to 10 years. In captivity, they can live up to 15 years
- Foxes are omnivores, eating both plants and animals. Their varied diet includes bugs, fruits, small mammals (rodents), birds, nuts, mushrooms, berries, fish and frogs.
- Red foxes share their territory with all other North American fox species, except for the isolated Channel Island Foxes

Red Foxes	Kit Foxes	Channel Island Foxes
Can be identified by the white tips on their tails	Have short, silver-black tails, sandy-colored fur with bits of gray	Resemble Gray Foxes in color and physique, but are smaller
Are the largest species of fox in North America	2 nd Smallest foxes in North America, a few pounds and inches bigger than Channel Island Foxes	Are the smallest foxes in North America, about the size of a house cat
Usually have red or orange fur. Can also have silver, white, brown, black and tan fur	Have large ears to help them cool off in the desert sun (veins in their ears act as cooling vents)	Each Island Fox has a different number of vertebrae, with all varieties having more than the other 5 North America species
Are highly adaptable, can live anywhere, including cities	Live in the Southwest and Mexico. Inhabit dry desert areas with shrubbery, as well as cities.	Live on the six Channel Islands in California

Swift Foxes	Arctic Foxes	Gray Foxes
Have black-tipped tails and gray, orange and red fur. Also have pointy ears	Have rounded ears and body, stubby legs to help keep them warm. Mostly white fur in winter, shed into brown, white and black coats in summer.	Have black-tipped tails, black moustaches. Fur can be gray, silver, orange, white and black.
3 rd Smallest foxes in North America	3 rd Largest North American foxes, behind Red and Gray	2 nd Largest fox species in North America
They spend more time in their burrows than any other fox.	Won’t shiver until -80°F, scavenge prey that polar bears eat	Can climb trees, nest in them
Live in Central U.S. and the Midwest, inhabit grasslands	Live in the Tundra and Arctic Circle	Live in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico

